PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAVANCORE-COCHIN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THIRD SESSION—1951

Wednesday, *the 21st February 1951*

VOL. III] OFFICIAL REPORT [No. 1

The Assembly met for its Third Session at 11-30 a.m. on Wednesday, the 21st February 1951, in the Legislative Chamber, Trivandrum.

His Highness the Rajpramukh having arrived in the Chamber, in procession with the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, the Secretary to the Assembly and His Highness' personal staff, occupied the Speaker's Chair on the dais. The Speaker was seated to the left of His Highness.

ADDRESS BY
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJPRAMUKH

His Highness the Rajpramukh: Hon'ble Members of the Legislature,

I have very great pleasure in welcoming you to this session of the Legislative Assembly.

2. With the rest of the world, we have passed through another year of hopes and fears. The international situation has been full of anxieties during this period. More than once it looked as though the world was on the brink of an abyss. But the wisdom and patience of the great leaders of nations have so far saved us from the catastrophe of another world war. In the meanwhile, stock-piling is going on in several countries; and the heavy rearmament programmes of the different nations have resulted in phenomenal rises in the prices of several commodities, with inevitable repercussions on the world's economy.

3. In the death of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India has suffered an irreparable loss. He was one of the formost fighters for India's freedom and his achievements in respect of the consolidation of free India are known to all of you. My Government deeply mourn his death. We can pay no better homage to his memory than dedicate ourselves to the service of the country as he had done.

FOOD SUPPLY

4. The food situation in the country continues to be grave and serious. Internal production in almost all the States in India has suffered badly owing to natural calamities. In our own State, there was severe drought in the taluks of Shencotta and Chittur, while about 12,000 acres of paddy lands in Kuttanad were affected by breaches due to tidal action. My Government are making strenuous efforts to meet the situation. New land is being brought under cultivation. Single crop lands are being converted into double crop. Top priority is being given to irrigation works. Supply of manures is being assured to every ryot. The system of procurement has been systematised and the procurement price of paddy is being raised wherever possible. If the over-all effect is still a deficit, it is a result from which we cannot escape. The deficit that remains can be made up only by supplies

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from abroad or by resort to substitutes. The production of synthetic grains is being investigated and Government propose to take the initiative in this matter.

IRRIGATION

5. The three major irrigation schemes under execution, the Peechi, Chalakudi and Perinchani schemes, estimated to benefit a total area of over one lakh of acres are making satisfactory progress. A new scheme, the Vazhani scheme, intended to benefit about 11,000 acres, has also been taken up, while investigation is in progress of the Neyyar Irrigation scheme, which will enable an additional area of about 15,000 acres to be brought under the plough. The investigation of the Vembanad Lake scheme, including the construction of the Thannirmukkom bund and the Thottappally spill-way, has almost been completed. This scheme will protect about 1¼ lakhs of acres of land in Kuttanad from floods and sea-water, besides enabling the conversion of 45,000 acres of single crop lands into double crop. Minor irrigation has also been receiving the careful attention of my Government. The various lift irrigation schemes, schemes for construction of earthen dams, restoration of tanks, and opening of irrigation channels, are making very good progress.

AGRICULTURE

6. Owing to the intensive propaganda carried on by the Department of Agriculture, the use of scientific manures and improved strains of seeds has become a permanent feature of agriculture in the country. 2½ lakhs of acres of land in the important paddy growing areas of the State have been selected for intensive manuring, and 11,000 tons of manures supplied. The area under improved strains of paddy seeds has risen to 1,25,000 acres. Fifty-thousand acres of unreclaimed waste lands in the Kari area will be treated with scientific manures and it is expected that the whole area will be brought under paddy in the ensuing year. Arrangements are also being made for the supply of manures for tapioca cultivation.

7. The supply of electric power for de-watering punja lands is being rapidly expanded. It is the aim of my Government to supply cheap power as much as possible to aid cultivation. 30,000 acres of punja lands are at present under de-watering by electric power.

EDUCATION

8. My Government are spending about 25 per cent of the State's Revenues on education. The scheme of compulsory primary education is at present being worked in nine taluks of the State. Investigations are being made with a view to bringing two more taluks within the scheme in the next academic year.

9. My Government recognise the services rendered by private agencies to the development of education in this country from the primary to the highest stages. My Government are averse to interfering with the autonomy of private educational institutions except to the extent that is absolutely necessary to ensure their efficient administration.

10. There is a basic education training centre at Cherpu and Government is giving grant to two basic educational institutions. It is my Government's intention to establish departmental basic schools in the State as early as possible. A committee has been appointed to draw up schemes for the expansion and development of adult education and an adult education centre has been opened in Trivandrum.

INDUSTRIES

11. My Government have been pursuing a steady programme for developing indigenous industries. The mineral sands in the State are State property, and it is

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